

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
INTERVIEW VIA TELEPHONE WITH BOB KING, CNN
MOSCOW, RUSSIA
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Q: (Inaudible)

A: Good afternoon.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: Russia has not yet submitted an application to join the Partnership for Peace. As you've heard, the Defense Minister, Grachev, has said they intend to submit that by the end of the month. Each applicant for the Partnership for Peace has first to specify the extent to which he wants to participate. We don't know yet the extent to which Russia is going to propose that, so, I'm really unable to answer that question at this stage. It's obviously going to be a fairly significant development, and we look forward to it with great anticipation.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: I do. I have been told that both by Defense Minister Grachev and by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: I have heard, we have had reports that the SS-19 and SS-24 warheads -- these are the two large and modern ICBMs, that the warheads from these are now being shipped to Russia. On my trip to Ukraine I plan to stop at Pervomaysk, which is an operational ICBM site that has both the SS-19s and SS-24s, to have a chance to observe the dismantlement and shipping in progress. So, I can give you a better report on that next week.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: The verification is not explicit, but when I requested of President Kravchuk that I be allowed to go down to the site to see the dismantlement and shipping in progress, he readily agreed to do that.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: There would have to be several conditions met. The first condition being that any sort of ultimatum we make we would see as facilitating movement

forward in the peace process, which is the most important thing underway in Bosnia today.

Secondly, we'd have to be able to satisfy ourselves that the ultimatum would actually reduce the civilian casualties that have taken place in [Bosnia] today.

And finally, it would have to be something that NATO air power plus the existing UN ground forces are capable of carrying out. We do not want to make empty threats. It's conceivable that we would reach a situation where those three conditions could be met, and we would be prepared to go to NATO at that stage and request such action.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: First of all, we need to see what the IAEA report, that's the International Atomic Energy Association's report is to the United Nations. We understand that they have concluded that the inspection was not fully satisfactory, that they are not able to certify that the removal of fissile material has taken place. If that is the case, that is a serious matter and either the North Koreans will have to agree to further inspections, or there will be some action proposed to the United Nations. What the next action is is hard to say. It might be a request, for example, for sanctions being imposed on North Korea.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: No. No, the movement of U.S. warships in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific now are normal movements as of this point. We do have considerable naval resources near that vicinity, though, and obviously if we reached a stage where we thought there was any sort of an imminent risk of military activities taking place, we would make use of those warships.

Q: (Inaudible)

A: You're very welcome.

(END)